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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED  
EXAMINING GROUP 2671**

**PATENT**  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08350.0444-00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Volodymyr V. KINDRATENKO et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2671  
)  
Application No.: 09/997,030 ) Examiner: Whelpley, Michael V.  
)  
Filed: November 30, 2001 )  
)  
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ) Confirmation No.: 6132  
HIDDEN OBJECT REMOVAL )

**Mail Stop AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 25 2004**

**Technology Center 2600**

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

In reply to the final Office Action mailed May 20, 2004, with a period for response extending through August 20, 2004, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Applicants request consideration and entry of the following:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper beginning on page 2.

**Remarks** follow the amendment section of this paper beginning on page 11.

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